Case Name: Gillingham War Memorial

Case Number: 1432975

Background

Gillingham War Memorial is being assessed for listing as part of Historic England's First World War Commemoration project.

Asset(s) under Assessment

Facts about the asset(s) can be found in the Annex(es) to this report.

Annex	List Entry Number	Name	Heritage Category	HE Recommendation
1	1433120	Gillingham War Memorial	Listing	Add to List

Visits

Date	Visit Type
none	No Visit / Data from other sources

Context

The memorial is situated at Medway Park, Gillingham, within Medway Lines Conservation Area. There are no known threats to the memorial.

Assessment

CONSULTATION

The applicant, the owner, the local authority, the Historic Environment Record (HER) and War Memorials Trust were invited to comment on the factual details of the case as part of the consultation process. No responses were received.

DISCUSSION

War memorials attract considerable public interest and will warrant serious consideration for designating, especially during the centenary of the First World War. The Principles of Selection for Listing Buildings (March 2010) sets out how the Secretary of State determines whether a building or structure is of special interest and merits listing. The Historic England Listing Selection Guide for Commemorative Structures (April 2011) states that, unless compromised by alteration or of little design interest, there is a presumption in favour of listing all war memorials.

This is an elegant war memorial by noted sculptor FW Doyle-Jones, who was also responsible for a number of other memorials including some which are already listed. It commemorates those local service personnel who died during conflicts in the first half of the C20. It is acknowledged that the memorial has been moved a very short distance from its original location, but overall, it is considered that the memorial has special architectural and historical interest and meets the criteria for listing.

We have considered whether powers of exclusion under s.1 (5A) of the 1990 Act are appropriate, and consider that they are, which is made clear in the proposed List entry.

CONCLUSION

After examining all the records and other relevant information and having carefully considered the architectural and historic interest of this case, the criteria for listing are fulfilled. Gillingham War Memorial is therefore recommended for listing at Grade II.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION DECISION

Gillingham War Memorial, which stands at the junction of Brompton Road and Mill Road, is recommended for listing at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

* Historic interest: as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on this local community, and the sacrifice it has made in the conflicts of the C20;
* Architectural interest: an elegant memorial by noted sculptor FW Doyle-Jones.

Countersigning comments:

This memorial meets the criteria for listing.

[redacted]

22 Feb 2016

Annex 1

List Entry

List Entry Summary
This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: Gillingham War Memorial

List Entry Number: 1433120

Location
Junction of Brompton Road and Mill Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1HL

The listed building(s) is/are shown coloured blue on the attached map. Pursuant to s.1 (5A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ('the Act'), structures attached to or within the curtilage of the listed building (save those coloured blue on the map) are not to be treated as part of the listed building for the purposes of the Act.

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
	Medway	Unitary Authority	Non Civil Parish

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed:
Date of most recent amendment:

Legacy System Information
The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: Not applicable to this List entry.
Legacy Number: Not applicable to this List entry.

Asset Groupings
This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Building
First World War memorial by FW Doyle-Jones, 1924, with later additions.

Reasons for Designation

Gillingham War Memorial, which stands at the junction of Brompton Road and Mill Road, is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

* Historic interest: as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on this local community, and the sacrifice it has made in the conflicts of the C20;
* Architectural interest: an elegant memorial by noted sculptor FW Doyle-Jones.

History

The war memorial in Gillingham was unveiled on 20 July 1924 by Alderman WH Griffin JP and was dedicated by Right Reverend Harmer, the Bishop of Rochester. It was erected to commemorate those residents of Gillingham who lost their lives in the First World War. Later inscriptions were added to commemorate Second World War and Korean War losses. It originally stood on a roundabout at the junction of High Street, Mill Road, Brompton Road and Marlborough Road but was later moved c20m across the road to Medway Park. This roundabout included a contemporary arrangement of lamp standards and an encircling chain carried on low posts: these features were not retained.

The memorial was designed by Francis W Doyle-Jones (1873-1938), an architect and sculptor originally from Hartlepool. He worked first for his father, before studying in Paris and London and concentrated on portraiture. He designed a number of Boer War memorials including those at Middlesbrough (Grade II), Gateshead (Grade II) and Penrith. His numerous First World War memorials include those in Gravesend, Sutton Coldfield (Grade II), and the 'Men of Elland' memorial in West Yorkshire (Grade II).

Details

DESCRIPTION: The memorial is a tall four-sided stone pylon with stepped detailing to the top, standing on a two-stage, square, pedestal. That stands on a two-stepped, square, base. The memorial stands in a square paved area surrounded by a chain carried on low bollards.

The front and rear faces of the pylon bear shallow cross forms. The front face of the cenotaph is decorated at the top with a carved roundel, inside which is carved in low relief the figure of Christ crucified, holding a torch in each hand, and being supported on either side by two female figures. Below this is the inscription TO THE/ GLORIOUS MEMORY/ OF THOSE/ OF THIS BOROUGH/ WHO LAID DOWN/ THEIR LIVES FOR/ KING & COUNTRY/ IN THE/ GREAT WAR/ 1914-1919/ AND/ WORLD WAR/ 1939-1945/ KOREAN WAR/ 1950-1953.

At the top of the rear face of the memorial, a similar roundel contains a laurel wreath carved in relief within which is the inscription 1914/ 1919. Below this is the inscription AT THE GOING DOWN/ OF THE SUN & IN THE/ MORNING WE WILL/ REMEMBER THEM. A small rectangular stone vase on the base of the memorial bears the inscription THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION/ WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

SUBSIDIARY FEATURES: Two inscribed stones erected in 2013 stand either side of the memorial to the north side. These are excluded from this listing.

Selected Sources

Websites

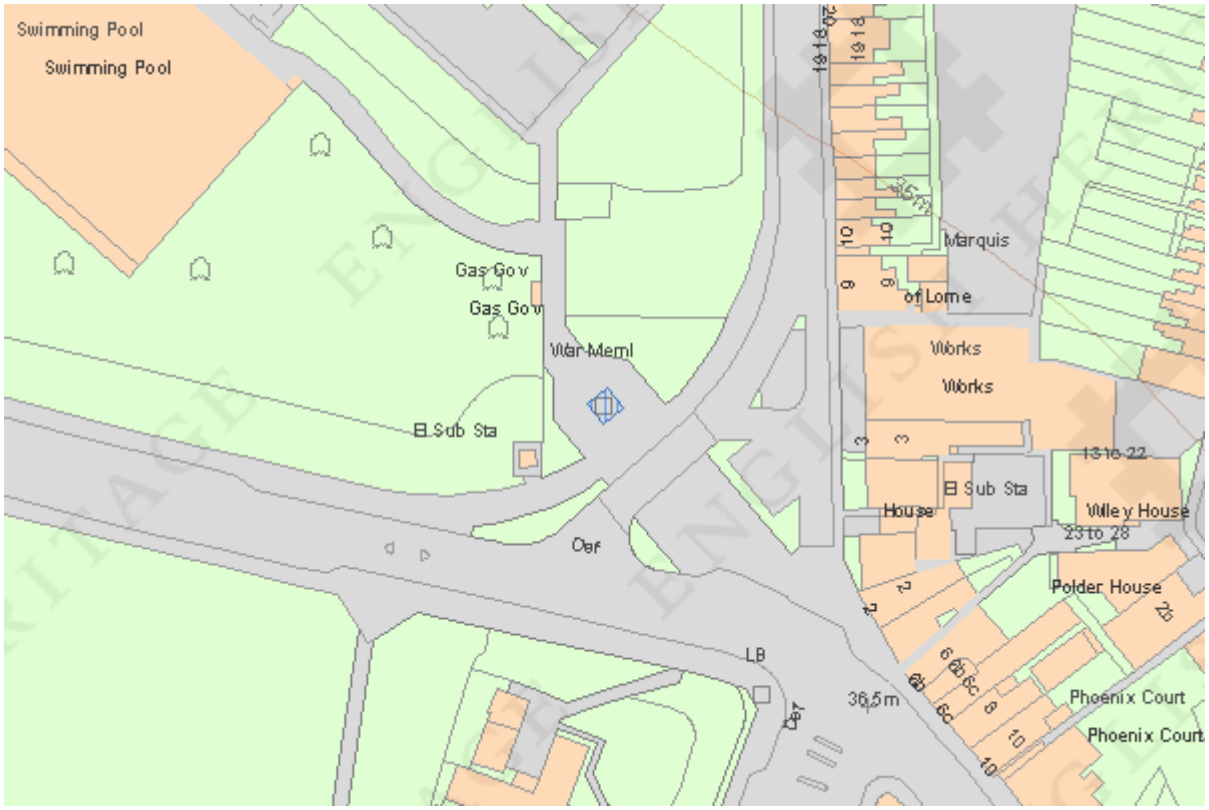
Imperial War Museum, War Memorials Archive, accessed 29/01/2016 from http://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/30621

The Kent History Forum, accessed 29/01/2016 from http://www.kenthistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=16212.0

University of Glasgow, Mapping the Practice and Profession of Sculpture in Britain and Ireland 1851-1951, accessed 26/01/2016 from http://sculpture.gla.ac.uk/view/person.php?id=msib2_1204843722&search=Doyle

Map

National Grid Reference: TQ7695968691



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The above map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - 1433120_1.pdf